

ABSTRACT

A personal item storage tray which includes a storage surface that incorporates a personal item identification, placement, retention, storage and removal apparatus or structure. One embodiment includes a substantially planar arrangement of depressions or recessed compartments designed to receive specific personal items such as, for example, eyeglasses, hearing aids and dentures. The compartments may be uniquely designed, shaped and marked to signal the uses of the compartment and to distinguish each compartment from the other to aid in visual identification and discrimination between the uses of each recessed compartment. The presence of items in the compartments is used to signal to the users of the tray that items are accounted for and not missing. The bottom surface of the tray includes a non-skid surface to avoid accidental or undesirable lateral movement. The tray is designed with a moldable or shapeable material. The tray has personal item inventory and management automation features and devices incorporated into its body to assist nursing staff or other users in accounting for personal items. Such inventory or missing item notification automation features includes a system having timers, sensors, and alerting signaling devices. These devices detect the presence of personal items within the tray storage areas and sound, signal or emit a missing item indication. The staff or other users of the tray are alerted to the necessity to search for a missing item when the tray signal system is activated.

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